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Carello Told Off Castro, And Cubans Remembered

By JOHN MELDER
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Alberto Carello, the man who told off Castro over Havana radio and television, got the biggest hand Monday when he walked into Dinner Key Auditorium.

Thousands stood cheering and applauding as the 28-year-old Negro, surrounded by friends, made his way onto the welcoming stage.

The Cubans remembered well the night Fidel, interviewing Carello shortly after his capture, asked him why a colored person would want to invade the island since colored people now were welcome there.

Castro told Carello he now could swim in country club pools and was welcome in all the hotels.

The former Havana post office worker shot back: "I didn't come here to swim in pools. I came to fight communism."

At the time, none of the prisoners knew whether they would be executed.

The Cubans remembered this Monday and gave the laughing, overjoyed Carello a hero's welcome.

THE WORD "RANSOM" took on a new meaning in Miami Monday.

It meant unrestrained joy for thousands of Cubans who had waited here and in Cuban prisons for the last 20 months.

As each load of prisoners filed off buses into the massive auditorium, the infectious happiness that swept across the faces erased the

sting many felt because Castro got paid off.

One Miami policeman said: "You know, ransom means something different to me now. You can always get money, but you can't always get people."

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SANTA CLAUS came early Monday for Maria Sanchez of 2788 SW 34th Ct.

Waiting with thousands of others, 10-year-old Maria said: "My Daddy is going to be my biggest Christmas present. But I'm not sure what he even looks like."

Gustavo Sanchez, 35, had been away almost two years.

Maria's mother showed her a picture of her father, and Maria said: "It looks strange to me..."